

# Pentecost Sunday

May 11, 2008

*Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23*

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Today's readings are filled with powerful words that manifest the 'mighty acts of God.' These words tell of a strong driving wind and of an energy of God's presence that appeared like 'tongues of fire' which filled each one of the disciples with the knowledge of understanding that enabled them to proclaim the marvelous works of God. The momentous event can actually be remembered as the instant in which the disciples knew their oneness with the Risen Lord!

Imagine a locked room, a group of frightened disciples, and a sudden moment of truth: Jesus in their midst saying, "*Peace be with you*". What could they have thought at that very moment? What did they see? What did they hear? The look of fear and sudden delight in their faces must have moved Jesus to repeat his greeting, "*Peace be with you.*" "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And in what must have been a powerful moment, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Imagine the energy of awe, gratitude, joy, and deep peace which filled the room. Jesus, yet again, fulfills his promise to *be* with the disciples. The disciples, confident in Jesus' words, can only rejoice and proclaim the mighty acts of God. They knew that peace, that assurance that God is with them and they need not fear. Yes, when the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, there came a noise like a strong driving wind, a power that filled the disciples with the Holy Spirit and enabled them to speak boldly, to understand, and to hear and speak in languages that broke barriers and left them in amazement of the wonders of God. Wonders that transformed them to accept the different kinds of gifts, of forms of service, and of the mighty acts of God. The Pentecost moment identified each disciple as one spirit, one body, and one mind.

What does the peace which Jesus shared with those present at Pentecost signify for us today? What is the peace we desire for our world, our earth, our students, ourselves? Have we not claimed that our hearts were burning within? Have we not given our lives to this Risen Lord? Have we not seen the mighty acts of God? Of course we have known Him! We have been called to be peace for others, one in this Risen Lord! God has made us one, sisters who proclaim truth, sisters who share in the mission of bringing and being peace to our places of ministry/community. The peace we offer is Jesus' peace, not my peace, your peace, but the peace that Jesus offers. Is the peace we offer visible/recognizable as Jesus' peace. Do our students, family, friends, and yes enemies recognize that we are one in the spirit of God? Is our prayer for peace one that proclaims the Gospel of truth? Is our peace one that speaks of the mighty acts of God? Is our peace one that encourages and gives hope? "Peace be with you" the gift given so that we too can be sent to the world as a sign of God's peace in the world.

May our peace be one that renews the face of the earth so that we can sing: Spirit of God, breathe in us now, let us be peace, hope and light, fill our lives, come to us, Spirit of God!